

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
_____, WASHINGTON**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE**

Sponsor/Land user: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Legal description of practice location: SEC _____ T _____ R _____

A properly operated and maintained grade stabilization structure is an asset to your farm. This grade stabilization structure was designed and installed to stabilize an eroding area and to safely convey runoff from the drainage area. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of the structure can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Avoid operating farm equipment too close to the structure.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
- Control livestock access to the structure.
- Remove all debris that may accumulate at the structure, and immediately upstream or downstream from the structure.
- Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Repair if not functioning. The screens and/or rodent guards shall also be kept in place.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.

- Remove woody vegetation from embankments.
- Determine and eliminate causes of settlement or cracks in the earthen sections and repair damage.
- Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
- Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR STRUCTURE

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR YOUR STRUCTURE.